

Notes.

Thus ended the great Lexington convention, where 1,250 delegates, nearly all men, sat for nearly three full days to consider the great things of the kingdom of God. They were characterized by earnestness and showed that they had come together with the high purpose of learning how they can more efficiently consecrate themselves to the service of God and their fellowmen.

We have never seen as large a body of men anywhere who sat more quietly or listened more earnestly to the speakers.

Important sectional conferences were held, in which almost all forms of Church work were discussed in an informal way. We wish we could give our readers a full report of them; but this is impracticable. We hope next week to give the report of one remarkable meeting for which we have not space this week.

The office of moderator was well filled by Dr. William J. Martin, president of Davidson College, and well did he perform its duties. Always in place promptly, ever courteous and gracious, apt in any remarks he had to make without taking up the time of the convention, he rose in the already high esteem of all those who knew him, and won a high place with those who did not know him before.

The local committees, headed by Mr. W. K. Massie, were untiring in their efforts to meet all the needs of the members of the convention, and right well did they succeed.

We wish to express our special thanks to a voluntary committee of young Christian Endeavorers, who aided us very materially in distributing the Presbyterian of the South among the members of the convention, and in other ways.

At the request of the Program Committee, Rev. Dr. J. W. Tyler wrote inviting President Wilson to attend the convention. When he found it would be impossible for him to come, he sent the following letter, which was read before the convention and was greeted with great applause, though there was deep regret that he could not be present:

The White House,

Washington, Feb. 15, 1917.

Mr. Dear Doctor Tyler:

I very much appreciate your letter of February 13. Its friendliness and its thoughtful consideration are very gratifying, and I want you to know how much such letters warm my heart and add to my courage.

I hope that you will convey to the gentlemen of the Laymen's Missionary Movement a very warm expression of my appreciation of the message conveyed in their behalf, and also tell them how genuinely I am interested in the great things they are attempting and accomplishing.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

Woodrow Wilson.

Rev. J. W. Tyler, D. D.,

Danville, Ky.

## Miscellaneous

### A PRAYER FOR PEACE.

(Dr. Douglas Freeman.)

Text: "... and have peace one with another." Mark 9:50.

(Written for the News Leader.)

Father of Mercy, Prince of Peace, Thy children look to Thee! Upon a thousand fields Thy sons lie slain in wrath and in ten thousand homes Thy widowed daughters sit. Thou seest, Lord! Thy fields are desolate. The tools Thou gavest man wherewith to

conquer earth for Thy enrichment and his good he hath misused. The knowledge gained from Thee he hath employed against Thy glory and Thy truth. The ships Thou madest him wise to build that others might Thy bounty share, he hath dispatched on errands dire and missions ill. He hailed Thy coming, then laid waste Thy shrine. He named Thy name and then denied Thy faith. He talked of universal peace and then provoked a universal war!

But still Thy children, Lord, are these. Misled and sinning, weak and erring all, Thy stamp is on their visage and Thy Fatherhood they claim. As each goes forth to die, he calls on Thee and drowns despair in hopes of heaven. Each thinks his cannon speak Thy wrath; each holds Thy shield above his head. Each has persuaded self his cause reflects Thy will, or else none could endure this day. That is their bloody tribute, Lord, to Thee—forgive the ignorance that ever sees Thee party to the murder of Thine own. Forgive and see how, from the trench, Thy sons have heavenward hewn a way they would not follow in Thy days of peace.

Today the grim hand stretches forth to seize another land for war. The woe that hath engulfed a continent is widening. The wrath that burned would now consume. Thou knowest, Lord. This nation Thou hast kept; this people Thou has warded long. Thy hand it was that pointed to the voyager a land untouched by ancient ills of dynasty and lust. Thou wert our buckler and our shield—else how could we have made a wilderness a garden plot and how escaped the doom that oft o'ershadowed us? Be Thou our helper now! We see no barrier betwixt us and the flood. We see no light save from Thy throne. We hold no hope that cometh not from Thee. Speak now, we pray! Bare once again the arm that interposed between Thy fleeing children and their foe. Divide again the waters as Thou didst when only through the waters could Thy people pass! Show Thy encircling host as when Thou didst array its strength before the opened eyes of Thy great prophets' trembling survivor. Make plain Thy ways, O Lord! for all Thy ways are ways of peace. Amen.

### A REALLY GREAT CHURCH.

By Karl Lehmann,

Southern States Secretary of Christian Endeavor.

It has been my privilege to come into contact with more than 3,000 churches in the last twelve years and I've seldom seen a greater or more aggressive church than the First Presbyterian, U. S., of Baton Rouge, La. Rev. T. M. Hunter, D. D., is the wonderfully strong leader whom God has used to build up this magnificent work. Dr. Hunter is a native of South Carolina and a citizen of Louisiana, a great son of the south, who preaches a strong sermon, does a strenuous pastoral work and has built up a most unusually successful mission work in the surrounding territory.

No call for service for Christ is too hard for Dr. Hunter. Besides his heavy work in the First church and the missions, he finds time and delights traveling once a month in the car his people have given him, 50 miles to Carville, La., and return, to preach to the 150 poor leper men and women, boys and girls in the Louisiana leper colony.

#### The Missions.

This great church supports Mrs. J. M. Bain as a foreign missionary in Hangchow, China.

Six fine mission stations in and near Baton Rouge are maintained by the

First church. These include a colored Presbyterian church for which the First church employs a pastor and a fine Italian church and worker.

There is no more aggressive missionary church in the South anywhere.

#### Christian Endeavor Work.

Dr. and Mrs. Hunter are both Christian Endeavor enthusiasts and this seems to be the place to say that Mrs. Hunter is a full 50 per cent. of this great pastoral team as every faithful pastor's wife is. Mrs. Hunter is a natural, winsome leader who gets young people to give their very best to the Master.

The First church, Baton Rouge has three Christian Endeavor Societies, Junior, Intermediate and Y. P. S. C. E. and a Y. P. S. C. E. in each of three of the missions.

This is indeed a great church, a great people, a great pastor and wife.

Four of the State Christian Endeavor officers, including State Secretary Miss Mary Pirie, than whom there is no finer in America, are members of this great church.

#### ARMENIAN RELIEF.

By Viscount Bryce.

In the history of the early Christian church there are no figures so glorious, none which have continued to be so much honored by the church all through its later days as those of the martyrs, men and women who from the time of Nero down to that of Diocletian, sealed with their blood the testimony of their faith, withstanding every lure and every threat in order to preserve their loyalty to their Lord and Master Christ.

In our own times we have seen this example of fidelity repeated in the Turkish Empire and it is strange that the Christians of Europe and America should not have been more moved by the examples of courage and heroic devotion which the Armenian Christians have given. Of the seven or eight hundred thousand of Armenians who have perished in the recent massacres many thousand have died as martyrs; by which I mean they have died for their Christian faith when they could have saved their lives by renouncing it. This has perhaps not been realized, even by those who in Europe or America, have read of and been horrified by the wholesale slaughter and hideous cruelties by which half of an ancient nation has been exterminated. They can hardly understand how there should be religious persecution in our time; so let me try to explain the facts.

It was not religious fanaticism that led the present rulers of Turkey to

seek to root out Christianity. So far from being fanatics most of these men though nominally Mohammedans have no religion whatever. Their aim was political. They wanted to make the whole Turkish Empire Mohammedan in order to make it uniform with only one creed and no differences between one class of subjects and another. They saw that the Christian part of the population suffering under constant oppressions and cruelties, continued to turn its eyes westward and hope for some redress from the Christian nations; so they determined to eliminate Christianity altogether.

During these recent massacres whenever any Christian would turn Mohammedan his life was spared. It was only as a Christian that he was killed. Many a Christian child was torn from its parents to be brought up as a Mussulman. Thousands of Armenian Christian girls were sold in the market or distributed among Turkish officers to be imprisoned for life in Turkish harems and there forced into Mohammedanism. But many more thousands of Armenians, women as well as men, were offered their choice between Christ and Mohammed, and when they refused Mohammed, were shot or drowned forthwith. For days and days together the bodies of Christian women who had thus perished were seen floating down the Euphrates.

Surely the remains of this suffering nation could make no stronger appeal for pity and help to the Christians of America than they make through these martyr deaths. Only a remnant is now left to whom charity can be extended. It is still a sorely afflicted remnant. Some in territory occupied by the Russian army though safe from their ferocious enemies are in sad need of help to rebuild their homes and cultivate once more their ravaged fields. The condition of others is even worse. They are barely supporting life in the deserts of Northern Syria, where their oppressors watch their sufferings under hunger and disease and refuse to alleviate their agonies. There is still, however, a chance for relief from without to reach them and their friends in Europe hope that generous charity of America, much as it has already done, will respond once more to the appeal made to it to send aid to these helpless survivors of an ancient Christian people.

Contributions should be sent to the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, New York.

It is better to say, "This one thing I do," than to say, "These forty things I dabble in."—Washington Gladden.

## New Orleans Convention

LAYMEN'S MISSIONARY MOVEMENT  
MARCH 13-15, 1917

Pin a \$ Here and Mail this Registration card to Mr. E. T. George, Chairman, Wells-Fargo Building, New Orleans, La.

Enclosed herewith please find One dollar. Please enroll me as a delegate to the Fifth General Convention of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, New Orleans, La., March 13-15, 1917. Please send me a ticket entitling me to a seat at all the sessions.

Name.....

Address.....

Date.....

IMPORTANT!—If you wish reservation made at any hotel please specify below, and state rate and how many to the room.

I desire room reserved. Rate.....per day.  
Number in room.....

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, UPON REQUEST REGISTRATION FEE WILL BE REFUNDED